

COUNCIL MEETING February 10, 2023

Council Members Present

Erica Brown,
HHSC/Medicaid
Ronnie Browning
Debbie Carlisle
Bill Coorsh
Gladys Cortez
Kyle Cox
Andrew Crim
Elizabeth Danner, TEA
Ivy Goldstein,
DSHS/Maternal Child
Health
Juan Carlos Lopez
Scott McAvoy
Amanda Miles
Meagan Orsag,
A&M-CDD
Angie Panzica
Michael Peace
Robert Schier, III
Jonas Schwartz
Eric Shahid
Meridith Silcox
Lora Taylor
Jamie Thomas
Kim Torres, Council Vice-
Chair
Nina Zuna, TCDS

Council Members Absent

Mary Durham, Chair
Maverick Crawford
Sean Jackson, DRTX
Holly Riley, HHSC/Older
Americans Act

Guests Present

Floyd Browning
Christina Bryant
Maria Espinoza
Brooke Hohfeld
Norman Kieke
Linda Litzinger
Jesusa Palacios
Austin Spratt
Holly VanScoy
Deborah Wallace

Regional Coordinators

Present

Erin Fogarty
Morgan Foster
Rosa Guel
Canen Melton
Skyler Mueller

Staff Present

Beth Stalvey,
Executive Director
Kai Brewer
Scott Daigle
Lauren Gerken
Sabrina Gonzalez
Crystal Goodwin
Genessee Klemm
Linda Logan
Sylvia Medina
Evan Marczynski
Mary Rochford
Richard Rendon
Melanie Teague
Brianna TenBrink
Reynaldo Valldejuli
Koren Vogel

Call to Order

The Texas Council for Developmental convened on Friday, February 10, 2023, at the DoubleTree Suites by Hilton - Austin, 303 West 15th Street, Austin, TX 78701 as well as virtually using the Zoom platform. Council Vice-Chair Kim Torres called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. A quorum was present.

1. **Introductions**

Council members, staff and guests were introduced.

2. **Public Comments**

No public comments were offered to the Council.

3. **Consent Items**

Vice-Chair Torres reviewed consent items including the minutes from the November 3, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting and the November 4, 2022, Council meeting as well as the excused absences of Mary Durham, Maverick Crawford, Disability Rights Texas representative Sean Jackson, and HHSC – Older Americans Act programs representative Holly Riley.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the November 3, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting and November 4, 2022, Council meeting and the excused absences of Mary Durham, Maverick Crawford, Sean Jackson, and Holly Riley.

MADE BY: Robert Schier, III

SECOND: Scott McAvoy

The motion **passed** unanimously. (February 2023 Meeting Materials, Tab 14)

4. **Chair and Executive Director's Report**

Vice-Chair Torres did not have additional report items.

Executive Director Beth Stalvey reported on eight stipends awarded during the quarter including four events, two speakers, and two translation stipends.

Stalvey provided staff updates to note that the vacant TCDD position is being developed as a Data Analyst position to assist with data collection, reporting, surveys, and technical assistance to grantees on their reporting and will be posted soon for applications. Stalvey also reported that Council Business Coordinator Fernando Rodriguez recently resigned his position and staff will evaluate agency needs for that vacancy.

Stalvey also reported special projects conducted during the quarter included input provided to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid prior to visits on Home and Community Based Settings Rules; Public Health Workforce Expansion; Faith, Disability, and Inclusion Networks; and partnership with Texas Education Agency on the 18+ Transition project; implementing peer to peer calls with grantees as well as quarterly technical assistance calls with grantees.

5. **FY 2022 Annual Program Progress Report Summary**

Executive Director Stalvey provided highlights of the FY 2022 Annual Program Progress Report Summary (APPR) which was submitted to federal authorities on December 30, 2022. The report summarized the impact of TCDD activities throughout the year in supporting advocates and promoting systems change. Stalvey noted over 17,000 individuals participated in various grant-related or staff conducted activities and she provided a breakdown of those numbers by categories of activities. Stalvey shared significant lessons learned from these activities including the preference for peer-led activities and identifying ongoing needs such as transition services,

education and resources, and technology. She also reflected on the momentum of these activities moving into FY 2023 and the types of projects that can be developed.

6. Election of Council Vice-Chair

Nominating Committee Chair Debbie Carlisle reported on the Committee recommendation for current Council Vice-Chair Kim Torres to serve a second term in that role. No other nominations from the floor were offered.

MOTION: To elect Kim Torres as Council Vice-Chair.

MADE BY: Debbie Carlisle for the Nominating Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously.

7. Election of Self-Advocate Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee

Carlisle reported on the Nominating Committee discussion for the Self-Advocate Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee position and recommended Eric Shahid to continue in that position. No other nominations were offered by members.

MOTION: To elect Eric Shahid as the Self-Advocate Member-at-Large to the Executive Committee.

MADE BY: Debbie Carlisle for the Nominating Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously.

8. Future Activities for State Plan Implementation

Project Development Committee Chair Gladys Cortez reported on Committee discussion of new state plan project executive summaries and Future Funding Priorities List.

Cortez first presented the executive summary for a TCDD Storytelling project. This project would collect, summarize, and distribute stories and personal experiences across the multiple areas of a person's life. It would seek professional writers and photographers to connect with people with DD about their experiences related to the TCDD Public Policy Priorities and other topics in the TCDD State Plan. The project would also provide assistance to TCDD sub-grantees on collecting and summarizing both individual and systems change stories within their projects. Funding is proposed for one project at \$300,000 per year for up to five years.

MOTION: To approve funding of up to \$300,000 per year, for up to five years, for one TCDD Storytelling project.

MADE BY: Gladys Cortez for the Project Development Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously. (February 2023 Meeting Materials, Tab 10)

Cortez next presented the executive summary for a Medical Self-Advocacy project. This project would develop education and skill-building training to empower patients with DD to better advocate for their health care needs. Funding is proposed for one project at \$125,000 per year, for up to five years.

MOTION: To approve funding of up to \$125,000 per year, for up to five years, for one Medical Self-Advocacy project.

MADE BY: Gladys Cortez for the Project Development Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously. (February 2023 Meeting Materials, Tab 10)

Cortez reported on Committee discussion of the Future Project Funding Priorities list.

MOTION: To approve the Future Funding Priorities List as follows:

- 1) Culturally Competent Family Supports
- 2) Prevention and Response to Sexual Offenses – Medical and Therapeutic Professionals
- 3) Prevention and Response to Sexual Offenses – Criminal Justice Response to Cases Involving People with I/DD
- 4) TCDD Storytelling Project
- 5) Medical Self-Advocacy

MADE BY: Gladys Cortez for the Project Development Committee

The motion **passed** unanimously. (February 2023 Meeting Materials, Tab 11)

9. **Legislative Visit Recap**

The Council discussed members' visits with Texas legislators and their staff which took place on Thursday, February 9, 2023. Members provided details of their advocacy efforts and reported open dialogue with legislative staff on TCDD Public Policy Priorities.

10. **Survey Results of TCDD Public Policy Priorities**

TCDD Public Policy Director Scott Daigle reported on the collection of data during the Fall of 2022, prior to the legislative session, with the intent to share the stories in efforts to highlight the need for policy change. A survey was conducted on how the TCDD Public Policy Priorities relate to real-life situations and affect people with DD in Texas. More than 90 responses were received from throughout the state. Though the responses touched on all priority areas, most were on personal/civil rights and early childhood services. Daigle shared excerpts from the anecdotes on topics such as restraint practices for students with disabilities, accessible bathrooms, attendant care rates, and Medicaid Waiver interest lists.

11. **Presentation: Texas Advocates**

The Council received a presentation from Texas Advocates co-directors Brooke Hohfeld and Deborah Wallace as well as Holly VanScoy who serves as a consultant for the program. Texas Advocates is a statewide advocacy organization with approximately 500 members, run by and for individuals with disabilities. Hohfeld provided highlights of current TCDD grant projects carried out by Texas Advocates including the Next Chapter Book Club and a Peer Supports Services for Individuals in Institutions. She noted efforts for sustainability of these projects once TCDD funding ends. Wallace and VanScoy discussed current strategic planning for the organization.

12. Agency Reports

The Committee received updates from Erica Brown, HHSC/Medicaid programs, Ivy Goldstein, DSHS/Maternal Child Health; Jonas Schwartz of Texas Workforce Commission; Elizabeth Danner, Texas Education Agency; and Meagan Orsag, Texas Center on Disability and Development. Written reports were received from the Texas Center for Disability Studies.

13. Executive Committee Report

Vice-Chair Torres reported new grant funding awards for one Coping with Grief and Loss project and one Adults with IDD Supporting Aging Caregivers project. She also reported the approval of continuation grant funding for nine projects.

TCDD Director of Budget and Finance Rey Valldejuli discussed the Grants Monitoring Report and Risk Assessment Report, noting the Committee had no concerns.

Valldejuli reviewed the Summary of Funds for FY 2021 – FY 2023 as well as projections for FY 2024 – 2026. Valldejuli reviewed the operating expenses and total grant expenses showing amounts obligated for each year as well as funds available for new grant projects.

Council Business Director Koren Vogel reported on the review of member and staff conflict of interest disclosure reports and noted the Committee had no concerns.

14. Project Development Committee Report

Project Development Committee Chair Cortez reported on Committee discussion of potential future projects with topics such as case management/information and referral services, futures planning geared toward individuals with IDD as well as grandparent guardians, recreation and learning, financial literacy partnerships, and expansion of peer support.

15. Public Policy Committee Report

Public Policy Committee Chair Lora Taylor reported on discussions of member activities. She also noted the Committee received a panel presentation on legislative priorities of other advocacy organizations.

16. Future Agenda Items

Council members were encouraged to contact Chair Durham or Executive Director Stalvey with suggestions for future agenda items.

17. Announcements and Updates

Council members discussed dates of future meetings of May 3-5, 2023, August 2-4, 2023, November 1-3, 2023, and February 7-9, 2024.

Adjourn

Vice-Chair Torres adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

Beth Stalvey, Secretary to the Council Date